

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on December 13, 2022.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc (arrived at 7:44 PM), Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; Student Representative Kayla Surprenant and Morgan DiFronzo

Madam Chair stated Mr. LeBlanc will arrive a little late tonight.

**6. BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. Lori Gates & Pam Townsend**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Lori and Pam.

Ms. Townsend stated this year's Wreaths Across America will be held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Our motto is Remember, Honor and Teach. We will be going by each school in Enfield. We love doing this and volunteering. She is a 27 year veteran. We made a promise to never forget our Veteran's.

Ms. Gates stated teaching the next generation about this program and about the sacrifices our Veteran's have made is so important. This is our 7<sup>th</sup> convoy in Enfield. They will start at Walmart and will pass by every school. This year our students have sent in video's about sacrifice and honor. The convoy will start at 10:00 AM and we will end at the Enfield Town Hall at 11:00 AM. The truck drivers are very excited to be back in Enfield.

Ms. Townsend reminded everyone about the Wreath Laying Ceremony that will be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. We have enough wreaths to place one at every Veteran's final resting place. We will take any extras to other cemeteries. Please join us and help us lay the wreaths.

Mr. Ryder reminded everyone to bundle up tomorrow. The principals have been sending out messages to families about tomorrow. He has participated in this event every year and he thanked them for everything they are doing for our Veteran's.

Ms. Gates added Fire, EMS and Police from Enfield and Somers will be at each school and

when the convoy passes, they will be sounding their sirens in support.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them for their dedication. She loves the collaboration you bring to our school and the connection you are making with our students. Is it okay for the students to bring signs to show their support.

Ms. Gates stated yes, other convoys have heard about what Enfield does and they want to come here. Getting our kids excited is a teachable moment.

Mr. Hamre thanked both Ms. Gates and Ms. Townsend.

Mrs. Acree thanked them for all you are doing and for remembering and honoring our Veteran's.

Madam Chair stated you also held the Cookies for Camouflage for our service men and woman that are actively serving overseas. She remembers last year the wreath laying ceremonies was a snowy day and it is amazing to see how many community members come out to lay wreaths on the Veteran's graves. Involving all our schools is important. Who will be riding in the convoy this year.

Ms. Gates stated Guy Bourassa will ride in one of the trucks, Pam Townsend's husband Lucian LaFave will ride in one of the trucks. Pam was in DC during 9/11. She will be riding in the truck that is headed to Shanksville, PA crash site.

Madam Chair thanked them for sharing this moment with us. She recently attended a funeral service with military honors and Lucian was there at the Agawam Cemetery. Thank you both for your service. She also thanked our service men and woman, and we are forever grateful. We will be waiving to you both tomorrow.

Mr. Drezek added this is our seventh time doing this and he hopes everyone doesn't take this for granted. It happens because of everything Pam and Lori are doing. Thank you for this amazing partnership you have made with our students. Our students have a blast doing this and we look forward to the next convoy. Thank you.

**b. Chief Academic Officer**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our Chief Academic Officer Michelle Middleton. He reminded the Board about how we have been conducting our Board meetings. We defined our district's equity statement that the Board has adopted as well as the Town Council. We then provided the Board a presentation on Social, Emotional Learning (SEL) Program. This is what we believe in and are working towards. He also made changes structurally in the district in order for us to adapt to what our kids need. He thanked Ms. Middleton for taking on more and more. She is focusing on what our kids need academically from the last two years. Next, he provided the Board with state data about who we are and our high needs. Ms. Middleton's presentation is the next phase of our rollout process. Members of the Curriculum Committee have seen this presentation. It is important for the entire Board to hear this as well as the community about what we are doing to meet the needs of our students.

Ms. Middleton reviewed the goals for 2022-23; Assessments used for Data Monitoring; the Monitoring Process; Assessment Scores for 2022 that include Smarter Balanced Assessments, SAT School Day, Next Generation Science Standard Assessments and Graphs; Smarter Balanced Assessments for grades 3-5 – ELA; Smarter Balanced Assessments, grades 3-5 – Math; Smarter Balance Assessments for grades 6-8 – ELA; Smarter Balanced Assessments, grades 6-8 Math; SAT School Day – ELA and Math Gr. 11; Next Generation Science Assessment for grades 5, 8 & 11; Smarter Balance Assessments Cohort Comparison 2018-19 and 2021-22; SAT Assessment Comparison from 2018-19 and 2021-22; NGSS Assessment Comparison 2018-19 and 2021-22;

Ms. Middleton reviewed comparisons between 2020-21 and 2021-22; Ms. Middleton added during this time we were hybrid and remote testing was allowed by the state. The state allowed for a remote testing option due to so many schools being remote during this time.

Ms. Middletown reviewed Smarter Balanced Assessments for grades 3-5 – ELA Cohort Comparison 2020-21 and 2021-22; Smarter Balanced Assessment for grades 3-5 – Math Cohort Comparison 2020-21 and 2021-22; Smarter Balanced Assessment for grades 6-8 Cohort Comparison 2020-21 and 2021-22; Smarter Balance Assessments for grades 6-8 Cohort Comparison 2020-21 and 2021-2022; SAT School Day – ELA and Math Grade 11 comparison 2020-21 and 2021-22; Next Generation Science Assessment for grades 5, 8 & 11 Comparison 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Ms. Middleton reviewed strategies for 2022-23; English Language Arts (ELA) Using Assessments to help guide instruction at all levels; Grades 1-5 are in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of using LLI for Tier II Intervention; and all levels using a model of teaching that allows time for student practice and application of skills.

Ms. Middleton reviewed Math; using assessments to help guide instruction at all levels; K-8 using the teaching of prerequisite skills as a proactive approach to ensure all students are getting better access to grade level materials; and High School Level.

Ms. Middleton explained our next steps. Our grade 8 scores dipped in all three subject areas. What impacted grade 8 last year?

Mr. Drezek added chronic absenteeism has been reported and data that has been released by the State of Connecticut. Board members have also asked about our absenteeism. What was our district chronic absenteeism rate pre-pandemic. Ms. Middleton stated as a district, it was 10%. Mr. Drezek asked what was it last year. Ms. Middleton stated 21%.

Mr. Drezek asked what was JFK's chronic absenteeism was pre-pandemic. Ms. Middleton stated 8.4%. Mr. Drezek asked was it last year. Ms. Middleton stated 32.9%.

Mr. Drezek stated he mentioned this because the 32.9% at JFK does not differentiate why those kids at JFK were absent. He disagrees with the state about how they calculated this. They are not taking into consideration what happened last year and the year before. If you were considered a close contact of someone who had Covid, you were required to quarantine for 10 days. If you are a student and needed to quarantine twice, you were following the guidelines created by the State Department of Public Health and Department of Education. Students would be considered chronically absent and would run the risk of losing credit.

Mr. Drezek stated we do not have hard data for grade 8 yet but when you look at the absenteeism numbers, we know why are numbers are high. It doesn't tell us what was Covid, what was quarantine or an actual truancy. The reason the numbers are so high is because we were sending students home because the state directed us to do so. During last year, we could not allow remote learning or hybrid learning per instructions from the state. It was considered illegal.

Mr. Drezek asked Student Representative Ms. DiFronzo what happens on SAT testing days. Ms. DiFronzo stated we spend time in the auditorium. Mr. Drezek stated you can be excused if you are visiting a college or working at a job. During the hybrid year, we made an announcement that seniors could work at home using asynchronous learning. Last year, we sent out the same message by an accident. Within one hour, the Commissioner's office contacted us and told us this was illegal. Any remote learning done is illegal.

Mr. Drezek added when our kids were not in school, they were missing instruction. He commends our teachers for everything they did for our students during this time. Nothing can

replace real time instruction from our teachers. He knew as a parent with all the absences, his own child would not have the same level of understanding as other students and would not be as academically as successful as other students. He also received the letter regarding his child being chronically absent and was in jeopardy. When you look at the absenteeism rates, there is a legitimate reason these numbers are so high. We knew when we closed school on March 13, 2020, this would affect our students. We need to make sure we are meeting our student's needs.

Mr. LeBlanc arrived at 7:44 PM.

Ms. Middleton stated absenteeism has impacted our grade 8 students. We added another team for grade 8 students.

Mr. Drezek stated our JFK students also were using the library as a swing space during construction. There were more kids in this area and most likely, more kids needed to quarantine because of this.

Mrs. Middleton added these grade 8 students are now in grade 9. We are offering tiered instruction supports and are looking at the students that are struggling. Ms. Clark is also adding in additional supports and meet regularly with the students. We are working on instructional supports at all grade levels. Our department coordinators are now all K-12 coordinators now and are looking at what was working before the pandemic and seeing if it is in place now, and if it isn't then why not. We are improving tiered instruction time for students.

Mr. Drezek added our department coordinators are now K-12 and are 12 month employees now. We have realigned our staff to meet the needs of our kids.

Mr. Drezek stated his budget presentation will be presented in January or February depending on the weather and it will also look different. We know where our priorities are and identified the needs of our kids. The budget will reflect the needs of our kids to help them academically.

Mr. Drezek thanked Ms. Middleton. We cannot look at this the same way. We have hard proof of what our kids went through, and he commends Ms. Middleton's efforts.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Ms. Middleton for your presentation. Data is near and dear to her. How can we be helpful. We know what has impacted our students. We have efforts in place. She looks forward to your budget presentation. We have our district road map and know what our needs are for students. Now we need to get everyone on board moving forward. She is an advocate for tiered instruction. A better understanding of the supports will help. She doesn't want to add more work to our teachers workload. How is this working and how are we informing parents about what our priorities are. She also has questions about attendance and absences and student needs. On a positive note there was some growth. We are here to support our students. Thank you.

Mrs. Acree thanked Ms. Middleton for your informative presentation. The data shows where are students are at. All we can do as mentioned by Mr. Drezek is by meeting them right where they are coming from, using learning strategies and specialized curriculum that will meet the needs of the students now so they can start progressing. She has faith in our staff, teachers and administrators in our district and that our students will grow and master these skills. It will take time. What was the retention rate in our district.

Ms. Middleton stated K-8 was low. She will get the numbers from the principals and will bring it to the January Curriculum meeting. After summer school was completed, the percent of retentions were in grade 9 – 10.7; grade 10 – 10.43; grade 11 – 3.69 and grade 12 – 0.

Ms. Middleton stated the four year graduation rate in 2018-19 was 89.6%. During 2021-22 we

were 91.1%. We were higher than the state in both years. Our six year graduation rate was 81.2% before the pandemic and 85% last year. We were just below the state for six year graduation rates. Those are pretty positive numbers.

Mr. Drezek added we could not retain any students in grades K-8 during the pandemic. That was another directive from the state.

Mr. LeBlanc apologized for being late. He will watch the presentation tomorrow. You mentioned how grade 9 students are struggling and have been grouped into caseloads and will be tracked throughout the year to get them back on track. Can you explain what the solution for a lot of our struggling students has to do with attendance. More often than not, struggling students have a higher absenteeism rate. We need to get these students back into school on a more consistent basis. He has seen this in another school district. There was a large list of students that needed to be tracked down. This seems like a daunting task.

Ms. Middleton explained that each school has an attendance team. Schools are meeting weekly or bi-weekly depending on the amount of absences. The high school is meeting weekly and are contacting families and have conducted home visits. They also have social services involved. The high school is doing a lot. They are checking on the grade 9 students because of drop and to get them any supports they might need. We are not really sure of the cause. It could be behavioral, mental health or the lack of learning. The administrators and counselors have caseloads of students they are working with. Not all grade 9 students need this additional support. The primary grades are using the Family Resource Center to help reach out to families. Every building has an attendance team that is meeting regularly.

Mrs. Cushman thanked Ms. Middleton for the presentation. She has learned so much by attending the last 2 curriculum committee meetings. She asked about the grade 11 Next Generation Science Assessment scores, and they were very good. She knows there is something that is already in place that has influenced this.

Ms. Middleton stated our Science Coordinator Chris Ponte started a pathways program of courses several years ago so by the time students were in grade 11 they had exposure to all the standards they are being assessed on. He thoughtfully put this together. He has worked with the teachers to increase student engagement in their classes and performance based assessments and how the students are accessing the materials. She believes this has played a huge part and we are now seeing the payout.

Mr. Unghire thanked Ms. Middleton for her presentation. He stated absenteeism is a major factor. Mr. Drezek mentioned there were other contributing factors like swing spaces at JFK. Are there any other additional contributing factors?

Ms. Middleton stated grade 6 students were sent home in March 2020, then the next year they went back a couple of days of week during our Hybrid time in smaller groups and then came back in grade 8, they missed out socially as well as academically. There is an article in the New York Times about this. It is not just us, it is statewide that scores have dropped. She is not sure if mental health and or social health plays a part in this. She taught middle school for years and knows how much students change from the start of middle school until they leave middle school. She is not sure if this has impacted them physically, emotionally, and behaviorally. Our secondary students seemed to have a harder time coming back to school than our elementary students. Socialization plays a big part.

Mr. Unghire asked about the tiered supports and the difference for Tier III and II.

Ms. Middleton stated Tier II students receive some supports and will meet less frequently. Tier III are the smallest group. They will meet 4 days a week and the teachers monitor them, and it is more intense.

Mr. Unghire stated going back before the pandemic how did we compare to state. Were we higher or lower? Ms. Middleton stated we were higher in some areas and some areas lower. The gap was a lot less.

Mr. Unghire asked if you are making any curriculum changes. Ms. Middleton stated yes, we made changes in math before the pandemic and that has helped.

Dr. Calnen stated Tier III students will receive support up to 4 days. All students will receive Tier I supports. Ms. Middleton added those students are taught by consultants in language arts or math. They will be pulled from the classroom when the teachers is teaching Tier II instruction. The small group work is being done outside of the Tier I instruction.

Madam Chair thanked Ms. Middleton for the presentation. She recently attended Prudence Crandall's family engagement day and they were working on fractions. Our teachers are making math and learning fun for our students. Our teachers felt the struggle during the pandemic. We need to look forward and recognize the needs of our students and staff. Having our coordinators now as K-12 is a good thing. Our kids have dealt with a lot emotionally. We have seen this with our secondary students that are struggling.

Madam Chair added curriculum meetings are excellent. It is great to hear what is going on with changes and how we are adapting to the needs of our students. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated she cannot wait for our budget presentation next.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **a. Student Representative Update**

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo reported the Enfield High Student Council has started their door decorating contest for teachers. Teachers will receive a trophy and gift cards. Wearing PJ's was a big hit for students. The EHS Jazz Band & Concert Band will have a concert tomorrow night. We held a blood drive and collected 47 units. We will have a holiday spirit day on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone will wear holiday spirit wear. Cap and gowns measurements will be taken Thursday during all lunch waves. Seniors can purchase an additional tassel for \$6. We will also take our senior class photo in the gym. She also gave an update on the midterm schedule that will take place on January 18-24. She congratulated all of the early graduates and wished them good luck.

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant reported the girls basketball won their first game yesterday and will have another game on Wednesday at home against East Hartford. Indoor track will have a track meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at Hill House High School. We are selling fan shirts for anyone that is interested. We will hold the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 7-11 AM. She congratulated HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth, winners Alicia Lizotte & William Bergman. They will attend a leadership conference in June. The EHS hockey team held a holiday jamboree last Saturday at the Enfield Twin Rinks and will play their first home game on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The boys basketball team will have their first home game on December 15<sup>th</sup> against Maloney High School.

- b. Rachel Challenge Events** - as presented
- c. Early Release & Winter Vacation** – as presented
- d. EPS Update**

Mr. Drezek stated save the dates for the Superintendent Advisory will be sent out by email.

Mr. Drezek congratulated the Enfield High School Football Team for their victory game against South Windsor and for bringing back the Route 5 Rivalry Trophy.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 4-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. She added that you will need to sign up to talk and she will not call up anyone from the audience to speak. Thank you.

Rob Anderson, Bass Drive – Mr. Anderson agrees with the superintendent that we need to think differently.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Anderson to address the Board and not the superintendent.

Mr. Anderson wonders if the surrounding towns have the same absenteeism problem. He sent an e-mail to Board members about the books. These books are in our schools. You are wrong. You insulted an audience member. You owe her an apology. You have tried to silence Board members. This is happening. In the future before you speak, you should make sure you are correct. The pizza and milk issue both happened. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis asked if the free lunch would come to an end or has it been extended. She thanked a Board member for speaking up and having a voice. Our leadership is doing an amazing job. She is happy that our Board members are looking out for our kids and standing by them every day.

Madam Chair asked audience members to refrain from making comments.

Mrs. Davis stated if audience members had kids in our school system, they would know this. She is glad for our Board members that are looking out for our kids. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please put our kids first in the new year. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Acree stated the Crandall Parent Engagement Day that was held before Thanksgiving, and over 150 families participated. PJ day was a great way to honor the courage of children with cancer. The December 15<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting has been cancelled. They will next meet on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Henry Barnard library. Although schools will be closed during our winter vacation, the teachers and staff will continue to engage our students academically.

Dr. Calnen stated Head Start held their policy meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He is pleased to announce that Enfield Head Start has received their 5 year accreditation from NAEYC. He thanked Jaclyn Valley and her team. He reviewed the scores they received. We have a great program in Enfield. He gave an update about DRDP at Head Start, Ready Rosie and referral services provided. All students are required to have a flu vaccine, or they will not be allowed back to Head Start on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Proof of vaccines is required unless other arrangements have been made with the nurse. Plans are being made for the circle of security.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite held their monthly meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Leann Beaulieu will be leaving us and is being replaced by Carol LaLiberte. She will work with Leann for 6 months during a transition period. Carol will do a great job for us. He thanked Leann for everything she has done for us.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite has received a \$50K grant from the fund for Greater Hartford to continue family engagement. We will be offering 2 sessions in the spring on equity, inclusion and diversity. The first session will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Calnen stated the Family Resource Center has also been awarded a small grant to promote the Sparkler application. They will be working with the Enfield Food Shelf.

Dr. Calnen stated the Parent Leadership Academy will hold their first meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The PEP program is in need of Spanish speaking facilitators. Please contact the Enfield Public Schools if you are interested.

Dr. Calnen stated the 3:3 program focuses on playful learning. The First Readers will hold a trivia night on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Mount Carmel at 7 PM. You can go to the first readers website for additional information.

Dr. Calnen added the Rocking Chair Readers are coming back. Retirees will read stories to preschoolers.

Mrs. Cushman stated the Edsight presentation on school and district performance can be seen at 5 PM on the state website for anyone that is interested tomorrow.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO meeting will be held on Teams Wednesday at 6 PM. The Winter Band Concert will be held on Thursday at 6:30 PM. JFK Term II progress reports will be coming out on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will also hold a JFK fundraiser event at Red Robin on Thursday. He thanked both Dr. Berrios and Mrs. Lawlor for running the JFK PTO so successfully.

Mr. Hamre attended the Enfield Community Chorus at the JFK Auditorium last weekend. Several EPS students participated. He also attended the EHS chorus and orchestra winter concert. All these performances were outstanding.

Mr. Hamre thanked Eric Griffin for telling him about the United Sound Program. This is a program where high school students teach special needs students how to read music and play instruments. His own child was part of this program when she was at EHS last year that he was not aware of. He congratulated Mr. Griffin's daughter Haley who is part of this program. Kudos to everyone involved.

Mr. Hamre congratulated Enfield Head Start on their NYEAC Accreditation and everyone involved with this process.

Mr. Hamre stated it is amazing to attend the curriculum committee meetings to see how these courses and programs are being developed and adjusted to meet the needs of our students. He commends our teachers for bringing out the best in our students so they can achieve.

Mr. Hamre stated he works with the homeless population, and this is also concern at the high school level and all levels as well at the Head Start level. Resources are not as available as they were last year. The warming center, Loaves & Fishes and St. Patrick's church are available for those in need of service.

Mr. LeBlanc attended a couple of Park & Recreation travel boys and girls basketball games at the Annex and noticed the court needs some attention and waxing.

Mr. Unghire spoke about the JFK Best Buddies program and how they spread kindness through inclusion. There are 44 students in this chapter. There are around 500 chapters in the country. He thanked the teachers and counselors that work on projects with the students to show kindness and promote inclusion. The students gave other JFK students strips of paper with kind sayings on them. The students also organized a food drive and collected 2,619 pounds of food that were given to the Enfield Food Shelf to benefit the families in our Enfield community.

Mr. Unghire added when he heard about what the students at JFK were doing, it reminded him about a story he read in Readers Digest. He read the story. This lesson left the students feeling good about themselves. The teacher's list of good things each student wrote about their classmates left a positive impact in their lives. Our words are powerful.



Mr. Unghire wished all Enfield Public School students, Teachers and staff a Merry Christmas and a happy holidays and all the best in 2023.

Mrs. Pickett stated she did this exercise at an organization she worked at. She still has her piece of paper.

Madam Chair thinks this is something we should do. We all have positive qualities.

Mrs. Pickett stated 10 years ago the tragedy at Sandy Hook occurred. If you would like to support the families, you can read about them at [mysandyhookfamily.org](http://mysandyhookfamily.org). This is a great website to check out. She is looking forward to Wreaths Across America. This is already a heavy day for families. We will be celebrating and remembering all their lives on Wednesday.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Chef O and high school students for their partnership. Her kids cannot wait to go make cookies next week. Thank you EHS for your partnership with Enfield Street.

Mrs. Pickett stated the food shelf boat is at Enfield Street school. She encouraged families to bring in donations. She also encourages families to look at the principal's newsletter for upcoming events and also look at the [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) website. ESS will hold a spirit day on Friday. Students can wear their favorite holiday headwear. The PTO will hold a Winter Festival on Friday at 6:30 PM and students will attend school half a day on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and students in each grade level will wear a different color.

Mrs. Pickett also congratulated Head Start and Stowe. The Stowe Early Learning Center is a gem. She thanked Ms. Valley and the staff for everything you do. Your accreditation and outstanding data accomplishments does not surprise her.

Mrs. Pickett added the Enfield Adult and Continuing Education flyer that all Enfield residents received has some amazing programs listed in it. Please check out the winter and spring programs they are offering.

Mrs. Pickett attended the Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing with her children. It was a lot of fun, and the turnout was great. She would like to see the same turnout for all of our parades.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mrs. Cushman for the Edsight information. Anyone that is interested about this information can access the data at [cpacinc.org](http://cpacinc.org) and click on the events tab to register. They are offering translation services for families that speak other languages.

Mrs. Pickett added on Thursday, the Enfield Public Library will have their festival of trees on display. She and her daughter have a tree there. She is very excited for the opening night activities. She wished everyone a happy holiday. There are many cultural and religious celebrations during this time of year. Her children are coming home with a better understanding of these celebrations. She hopes everyone has a safe, kind, responsible holiday season.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney has cancelled their December PTO meeting and they will meet again in January. He thanks everyone that came out to the Pajama Jam last Friday night and those that purchased books for the Connecticut Children's Hospital. Students will also be filling a boat and Friday will be the last day to send in donations in that will go to Enfield Loaves & Fishes and the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Ryder reminded students to dress warm for Wreaths Across America Convoy on Wednesday.

Mr. Ryder added both Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial will hold a spirit week that will start on Friday. Students will wear different holiday themed items each day ending with a PJ

day on Friday for Polar Express Day.

Mr. Ryder stated on [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) the calendars you will see Kite is bringing back Heritage Day on February 25<sup>th</sup> at JFK from 11:30 – 4 PM. If you are interested in being an exhibitor, please contact Kite.

Mr. Ryder gave an update about PJ Day. We raised \$10,329 and surpassed last years contributions. We are 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state. He is extremely proud of everyone and thanked everyone for their participation. He thanked the students for submitting flip grids that will be shared with the children at CT Children's. He will keep the link open until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Next year he will work closer with the high school and Friends of Rachel. He is looking forward to next year's PJ day. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Madam Chair would love to see pictures of the decorated doors at Enfield High School. We are available to judge if you need volunteers. Student Representative Ms. DiFronzo added you can see pictures of last year's doors on EHS Student Council Instagram page.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Hamre to share any additional information he receives about United Sound.

Madam Chair stated Wreaths Across America is just one of the many things Ms. Gate and Ms. Townsend are doing for our Veteran's and service men and women. She thanked them for everything they are doing. Two Moms on a Mission are working very hard on their Angel Tree. She thanked Lauren Andrews and Carrie Monteforte and the generosity of many that are buying gifts for Enfield Public School families. She also loves the Torchlight Parade. Tristen did a great job and is giving Mayor Cressotti a run for his money. She also loved hearing the carolers sing and seeing Santa & Mrs. Claus.

Madam Chair attended the EHS career day. They had so many amazing careers for the students to learn about. This was a very successful event, and she looks forward to next year's event.

Madam Chair would like to have the ECAC attend a meeting in February. She would love to hear about the partnerships. Mr. Reppucci is also very excited about this.

Madam Chair stated at Parkman, they will have a virtual snuggle and read event on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-7 PM. The PTO will hold a Disney on Ice event on January 7<sup>th</sup>. They will have a ROAR event on January 10<sup>th</sup>, and it will also be crazy hair and hat day at that assembly. She received an email from a Parkman teacher about their class and since we are a one-to-one district, they feel there is too much paper waste in the Town of Enfield. They would like to make this a project. We don't need to send home some of the Park & Recreation flyers they are sending out. She thanked the grade 5 class at Parkman for this email.

Madam Chair congratulated Alicia Lizotte and William Bergman for being HOBY recipients. This is such a great program.

Madam Chair thanked Amanda Pickett for everything she has done for the Ana Grace project and for the families of Sandy Hook. You can go to the website at [anagraceproject.org](http://anagraceproject.org). Love does win.

Madam Chair wished the girls basketball team good luck with tonight's game. They won their game last night. One of the players is close to receiving her 1,000 points. The Route 5 Rivalry Trophy has been received. It really was a great football game to watch.

Madam Chair wished the entire district a safe, healthy and happy holiday. She hopes you all have some time to relax and unwind and spend time with your families and live in the moment of the holiday season. She extended holiday wishes to Jean, Janet, John, Jon, Josh, Dr. Jerry,

Amanda, Scott, Morgan and Kayla. Thank you for all the work you do on the Board and have a happy holiday and a safe happy new year.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Adopt Policy Revisions – First Reading**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the policy revisions as presented as a First Reading.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Cushman has concerns with some of the wording in Policy #5145.511 Exploitation: Sexual Harassment - Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program. She does not support this policy going forward for a first reading. The definitions on the first page should be rewritten. They need to be clear and concise and should be objective. She read the last sentence of the first paragraph about Sexual Violence and the entire paragraph. There are 3 terms that are defined in this policy that she believes is very verbose and they are not concise, and we should not draw social issues into the policy. She proposes this policy go back to the committee to be rewritten.

Mr. Hamre stated the title defines what the policy is about Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program. The paragraphs are definitions.

A vote by **roll call – 6-3-0** passed with Mrs. Acree, Mrs. Cushman and Mr. Unghire in decent.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett thanked Ms. Middleton for the last Curriculum meeting we held and for the revisions she made to tonight’s data presentation. We discussed course adjustments, Program of Studies Night in February, Reading Program Curriculum, TAG and Budget Constraints. Our next meeting will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about the FACS and Business Courses that were deactivated. Mrs. Pickett stated some of the courses were redesigned. She will review her notes and respond later.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee did not meet on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting is on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership met before tonight’s Board meeting and we have set dates for additional Leadership meetings. We will now meet on the Monday prior to our Board meetings

Joint Facility – Madam Chair reported the Joint Facility Committee met this week and approved some invoices. We are finishing our projects and there is not much to report.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee is looking at January 12<sup>th</sup> for the grand re-opening and tours of John F. Kennedy at 6 PM. We will send out notification once this date has been confirmed.

Madam Chair added a lot of people are looking forward to this.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup – Dr. Calnen has nothing new to report.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Drezek could lead us in the right direction regarding school based mental health centers. Mr. Drezek will put together some information on this.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported ECAC met last week. We discussed the Torchlight Parade and expanding this to a longer day of events on the Town Green. The Heritage Fair will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup>. This is another opportunity for us to showcase everything at JFK including the auditorium. PEP is one of the organizations that will be at the Heritage Fair. There will be a wide variety of foods and cultures at this event.

Mr. Hamre stated he appreciates music and the theatre. He attended Riley’s dance recital. The students were amazing. He congratulated the students and staff for everything they did with this production. He stressed the importance of having the need for people to run the equipment at JFK and EHS and how important it is to these productions. He stepped in to assist. He would like to make sure we have personnel available for these events.

Mr. Hamre stated there is also some inconsistencies in the Facility Use Policy as it applies to different organizations for profit and non-profit.

Mr. Hamre stated the Festival of Trees event will be at the Enfield Public Library. The ECAC also has a tree on display. He encourages everyone to see the trees that are on display.

Mrs. Pickett addressed Mr. LeBlanc’s question. The new course is Interior Design II that creates a pathway option for students, and we removed some courses due to low enrollment numbers. We have added so many courses where the content of the deactivated courses are in other current courses.

Madam Chair reported the Safe Grad Committee has thanked everyone involved with their auction and for the donations and raffle prizes they received. It was an extremely successful event for our graduating seniors.

Mr. Unghire reported the Field Trip he is working with John Dague and Caroline Marr has been rescheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. We had the trip planned but yesterday with the snow delay, we needed to reschedule this event for our robotics students.

Madam Chair is excited to hear about this field trip. Please update us at our next meeting.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mrs. Cushman abstaining.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None**

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary